



Information About

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)

What is EPSDT?

EPSDT is a healthcare program for children who receive Medicaid.

EPSDT stands for:

- **Early** – Identify problems early, starting at birth
- **Periodic** – Checking children's health at regular, age appropriate intervals
- **Screening** – Performing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other tests to detect potential problems
- **Diagnosis** – Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified
- **Treatment** – Treating the problems found

EPSDT can cover services that are not routinely covered for adults. States are required to provide any healthcare services that are medically necessary to correct, improve, or maintain physical or mental conditions. These services can be provided even if they are not included in the state's Medicaid plan.

For example, Virginia Medicaid does not cover dental care for adults. However, EPSDT provides dental care to children as the Smiles for Children Program.

Who is Covered by EPSDT?

- Children from birth to age 21 who receive Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver,
- Children in foster care and some adopted children with disabilities are also covered

What are Some of the Services Most Commonly Provided Under EPSDT?

- Hearing Aids
- Assistive Technology
- Personal Care
- Private Duty Nursing
- Medical Formula and Medical Nutritional Supplements
- Therapies – such as Physical, Occupational, Behavioral, or Speech

What are Some of the Non-Traditional Services Provided Under EPSDT?

- Adapted Exercise Equipment
- Organ Transplants
- Adapted Wheelchairs
- One-to-One Aides
- ABA Therapy

How do I Request EPSDT Services?

To request EPSDT Services, you must get a Letter of Medical Necessity. You then submit the letter to the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) or their agent, the Keystone Peer Review Organization (KePRO).

What is a Letter of Medical Necessity?

A Letter of Medical Necessity is a letter from your child's doctor or other healthcare professional. It describes why the treatment you want will help. This letter is the only thing that needs to be submitted to request the treatment be covered. KePRO has a form that information can be put into.

A child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) can sometimes be used as a Letter of Medical Necessity. The service must be in the IEP and be medically necessary in the school environment.

What Should be Included in a Letter of Medical Necessity?

A Letter of Medical Necessity should include:

- A short description of the doctor's credentials and his/her relationship to the child;
- A detailed description of the child's disabilities and how the disabilities affect his/her ability to function; and
- A description of how the item or service would meet your child's needs and why it is needed to correct or improve the affects of his/her disabilities.

What if my Request for EPSDT Services is Denied?

If you request services under the EPSDT program and your claim is denied, you should be given the right to appeal DMAS' (or KePRO's) decision. DMAS should inform you of this right. You only have 30 days to file an appeal.

How Can VOPA Help?

VOPA can provide information, technical assistance and, in some cases, legal representation.

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy
1910 Byrd Avenue, Suite 5
Richmond, Virginia 23230
(804) 225-2042 (local and TTY)
(800) 552-3962 (statewide)
804-662-7057 (fax)
www.vopa.virginia.gov
general.vopa@vopa.virginia.gov

VOPA publications are available in alternate format, upon request.

This publication provides general guidance only. For specific legal advice, you should speak to an attorney.